THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) According to the studies of satellite imagery by the National Remote Sensing Agency, the average annual rate of depletion of forest cover during the period 1972—75 to 1980—82 was approximately 1.3 million hectares. The rate of deforestation on account of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has come down since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. No studies have been carried out during the last three years to assess the increase in degradation of forest lands.

(c) Increasing biotic pressure on forest resources and diversion of forest land to non-forest uses are major impediments in containing deforestation. The following measures have been taken by the Government to check deforestation:—

1. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments

(i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestations.

(iv) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

2. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forest.

3. Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

6. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

Ex-gratia payment to victims of Novembers, 84 riots

1112. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 45 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the modalities to pay ex-gratia amount to the November, 1984 riot victims have been worked out;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the period likely to be taken in making the actual payments to the riot victims; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay in working out the modalities for payment of ex-gratia amount to the riot victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) The modalities regarding payment of ex-gratia amount for the loss|damage of the uninsured property to the November, 1984 riot victims have not yet been finalised. It took some time to get the views of the concerned State Government| Delhi Administration. These are, however, likely to be finalised very soon.

Indulgence of Pakistani Nationals in communal violence

1113. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent communal riots in Meerut,

some Pakistani nationals were arrested for their indulgence in communal violence;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) in how many cases so far Pakistani nationals have been arrested for their anti-India espionage activities and for their involvement in communal disturbances in the country; and

(d) whether Government have critically reviewed the working of the machinery in screening and locating the Pakistani nationals overstaying in the country after the expiry of their Visas; if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the measures taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) According to information furnished by State Governments, 3 Pak nationals were arrested during recent communal riots in Meerut for their doubtful activities but their involvement in communal riots could not be established, 21 Pak nationals were found involved in 1985 and 17 Pak nationals in 1986 in espionage activities.

(d) State Governments have been given strict instructions to trace out the Pakistani nationals who have been untraceable and deal with them in accordance with Law.

Conditions prevailing in Koderma (Hazaribagh) mica mines

1114. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government ever made an assessment of the working conditions prevailing in the Koderma (Hazaribagh) mica mines where the miners are constantly exposed to the lethal mica dust;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the measures taken by Government to ensure safe and healthy working conditions in the mica mines to protect the workers against TB and Silicosts; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to carry out an intensive study of the working conditions prevailing in the mica mines; if so, what steps have been taken by Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in crimes in Delhi

1115. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a considerable increase in the various kinds of crimes in the country particularly in the capital during the past one year; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) how do the incidents of crime compare with those of the preceding two years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to minimise the cases of crime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The comparative figures of crime cases under IPC for the year 1984, 1985 and 1986 are indicated below:

Year	Total cases in the country	Total cases in Delhi
1984	13·10 lakhs	30,775
1985	12.77 Lakhs	30,410
1986	11·90 lakhs	29,8[illegible]